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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. CP15-22-000  
CP15-24-000]

Dominion Cove Point LNG, LP; Notice of Intent to Prepare an  
Environmental Assessment for the Proposed St. Charles Transportation and Keys Energy  
Projects  
and  
Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of two related projects - the St. Charles Transportation and Keys Energy Projects – both involving construction and operation of facilities proposed by Dominion Cove Point LNG, LP (DCP) in Fairfax County, Virginia and Charles County, Maryland. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the projects are in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the projects. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. Please note that the **scoping period will close on February 4, 2015.**

You may submit comments in written form. Further details on how to submit written comments are in the Public Participation section of this notice. If you sent comments on this project to the Commission **before** the opening of these dockets on December 3, 2014, you will need to file those comments in Docket No. CP15-22-000 for the St. Charles Transportation Project, and CP15-24-000 for the Keys Energy Project, to ensure they are considered as part of this proceeding.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this proposed project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, access, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually

acceptable agreement. However, if the Commission approves the project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

DCP provided potentially affected landowners and residents within 0.5 mile radius around the proposed compression upgrades a fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled “An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?” This fact sheet addresses a number of typically-asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings. It is also available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)).

### **Summary of the Proposed Project**

DCP proposes to construct, install, own, operate, and maintain certain facilities located in Fairfax County, Virginia and Charles County, Maryland which comprise the St. Charles Transportation Project and the Keys Energy Project. These projects would involve the installation of new facilities and modification of existing facilities.

The St. Charles Transportation Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Pleasant Valley Compressor Station (Fairfax County, Virginia)
  - Install one new 7,000-horsepower (hp) electric compressor at the existing compressor station;
  - extend the existing compressor building;
  - replace the existing filter-separator with one new filter-separator;
  - add one new gas cooler; and
  - install miscellaneous piping and measurement upgrades, meter runs, piping, fitting and valves.
- Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) Maryland Interconnect (Charles County, Maryland)
  - Install two new 16-inch taps (one on TL-522 and one on TL-532) for customer delivery.

The St. Charles Transportation Project would allow delivery of an additional 132,000 dekatherms per day (Dt/d) of natural gas to CPV Maryland, LLC (CPV Maryland). According to DCP, additional compression at the Pleasant Valley Compressor Station is required to deliver gas to CPV Maryland. The two new 16-inch taps would be required for customer delivery.

The Keys Energy Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Pleasant Valley Compressor Station (Fairfax County, Virginia)
  - Install one new 6,000-hp electric compressor and one new gas cooler at the existing compressor station; and
  - add necessary interconnecting pipe work to and from supply/discharge headers.
- Keys Energy Interconnect (Charles County, Maryland)
  - Install two new 16-inch taps (one on TL-522 and one on TL-532) for customer delivery;
  - construct a metering and regulating (M&R) station that would feed gas from the new taps to the Keys Energy, LLC (Keys Energy) lateral line<sup>1</sup>; and
  - construct a dekatherm building that would house electronic flow control equipment.

The Keys Energy Project would provide an additional approximately 107,000 Dt/d of natural gas to a new generating station to be constructed by Keys Energy (Keys Energy Center, Prince George's County, Maryland). According to DCP, the Pleasant Valley Compressor Station would provide additional compression that is required to deliver gas to the Keys Energy Center. The two new 16-inch taps would be required for customer delivery.

The general locations of the project facilities are shown in appendix 1.<sup>1</sup>

### **Land Requirements for Construction**

Construction of the proposed facilities for the St. Charles Transportation Project would disturb about 22.6 acres of land for the aboveground facilities. Following construction, DCP would maintain about 1.5 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses.

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<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice will not appear in the Federal Register. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

Construction of the proposed facilities for the Keys Energy Project would disturb about 28.5 acres of land for the aboveground facilities. Following construction, DCP would maintain about 2.1 acres for permanent operation of the project's facilities; the remaining acreage would be restored and revert to former uses. The proposed facility modifications for both the St. Charles Transportation and Keys Energy Projects would occur within an agricultural field; existing compressor station property; or within existing, maintained DCP rights-of-way.

### **The EA Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us<sup>2</sup> to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- geology and soils;
- land use;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- cultural resources;
- vegetation and wildlife, including migratory birds;
- air quality and noise;
- endangered and threatened species; and
- public safety.

We will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in the public record through eLibrary. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, we may also publish and distribute the EA to the public for

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<sup>2</sup> "We," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

an allotted comment period. We will consider all comments on the EA before making our recommendations to the Commission. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section below.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA<sup>3</sup>. Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice. Currently, no agencies have expressed an intention to participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA to satisfy its NEPA responsibilities related to this project.

### **Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with the applicable State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes, and the public on the project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>4</sup> We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs as the project develops. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, compressor stations, and access roads). Our EA for these projects will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

### **Public Participation**

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the projects. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that the Commission receives them in Washington, DC on or before February 4, 2015.

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<sup>3</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1501.6.

<sup>4</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. Those regulations define historic properties as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

For your convenience, there are three methods which you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances please reference the project docket numbers (CP15-22-000 and/or CP15-24-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov).

- (1) You can file your comments electronically using the [eComment](#) feature on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). This is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;
- (2) You can file your comments electronically using the [eFiling](#) feature on the Commission's website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on "[eRegister](#)." You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select "Comment on a Filing"; or
- (3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

### **Environmental Mailing List**

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission's regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the projects. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the proposed projects.

If we publish and distribute the EA, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. **If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 2).**

### **Becoming an Intervenor**

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission’s final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are in the User’s Guide under the “e-filing” link on the Commission’s website.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information about the projects is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **(866) 208-FERC**, or on the FERC website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the “eLibrary” link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., 000). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission now offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to [www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp](http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp).

Finally, public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission’s calendar located at [www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx](http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx) along with other related information.

Dated: January 5, 2015

Kimberly D. Bose,  
Secretary.

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